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limitations that each pixel is formed by a crossing region of the address electrode and the display electrode pair (see, e.g., (2) in claim 1) and each phosphor or phosphor layer extends intermediately in the lengthwise direction of the ribs so that the phosphor layer does not exist in the regions on the ribs that correspond to the region between the adjacent display electrode pairs (see, e.g., (3) in claim 1).

With a structure as claimed, even when ultraviolet rays generated through the discharges in the display regions (pixels) of the plasma display panel leak out into the non-display regions, the phosphor layers do not emit light because the phosphor layers do not exist in the non-display regions, which, in turn, means that the plasma display panel can produce sharp images.

The Examiner acknowledges at the first full paragraph of page 3 of the Office Action that the primary reference does not "clearly point out the phosphor layer does not exist in the region on the ribs that corresponds to the region between the adjacent display electrode pairs." The newly cited Shinoda et al. '500 patent is said to show such a feature in Fig. 1 and the Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to combine such teachings to exhibit a high image brightness at a wide view angle range.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references in combination do not teach or suggest the invention as claimed because Shinoda et al. '500 at Fig. 1 does not teach or suggest a arrangement as claimed herein. Also, as explained herein, Fig. 1 of the reference does not show the feature it is alleged to show. (The Examiner is directed to the arguments presented in the Preliminary Amendment filed August 27, 2002 for arguments against the other two references in this rejection.)

Shinoda et al. '500 at column 9, lines 34 to 35 states that "Fig. 1 is a plane view of an arrangement of display electrodes X and Y in an image element EG." Fig. 1 does not depict a rear glass substrate, but rather depicts a front glass substrate. Fig. 1 shows only the front glass substrate together with numerals 28R, 28B, and 28G of the rear glass substrate for reference purposes. Fig. 2 of Shinoda et al. '500 shows the phosphor layer of the rear glass substrate, which phosphor layer continuously continues in the lengthwise direction. Indeed, the reference at column 10, lines 31 to 35, clearly establishes that the Shinoda et al. '500 phosphor layer continuously extends in a lengthwise direction. The reference at the indicated portion states, "By this construction a portion corresponding to each unit luminescent area EU, of each of

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the vertically extending phosphor layers 28R, 28G and 28B can be selectively illuminated and a full color display by a combination of R, G, and B can be realized." Thus, Shinoda et al. '500 at Fig. 1 does not show what is asserted in the Office Action to be shown. Fig. 2 of Shinoda et al. '500 shows that the phosphor layer extends without interruption across the device. Accordingly, the claims patentably define over the references. If, after evaluating Shinoda et al. '500 in light of the comments herein, the Examiner is maintaining the rejection, he is asked to explain on the record how Shinoda et al. '500 does not show continuous phosphor layers.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 11 patentably distinguish over the references and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

If the only barrier to allowance is the presence of non-elected claim 12, the Examiner is authorized to cancel that claim

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for that express purpose. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned should additional changes be required in the case prior to allowance.


Date

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Respectfully submitted,


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